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This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent application serial number 09/152,160, filed September 10, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,248,327, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 110, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

EXAMPLE 4

Identification of Binding Epitope for ECRTAb-1

C2  
A series of 96 eight to nine amino acid peptides was generated. The eight to nine amino acid peptides span in overlapping epitopes the 351 amino acid sequence against which ECRTAb-1 was derived was generated. These peptides were generated and immobilized in a defined array on the surface of a membrane that was probed with ECRTAb-1. Binding of ECRTAb-1 to peptide #41 in the array was identified using a peroxidase-conjugated anti-mouse IgG second antibody, by chemiluminescence autoradiography (Figure 12). The sequence of this peptide derived from the array is n-QSRDTEVL-c (SEQ ID NO:1). The 8-amino acid epitope represents the target sequence within the ECRT ectodomain against which functional ECRT agonists and antagonists interact, based on biological activities of ECRTAb-1. Antibodies, including humanized antibodies, and other peptides with high affinity for this defined amino acid sequence have biological activities comparable to those demonstrated herein using ECRTAb-1.